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D-R-A-F-T
O/Ch/G:JAB:jmc
11 September 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT: Proposal Concerning Svalbard by [REDACTED] 25X1A5a1

REFERENCE: Letter to Gen. Cabell from [REDACTED] Dated 25X1A5a1
26 August 1958

1. Transmitted herewith is a recently prepared paper commenting on Svalbard in terms of the proposals contained in the referenced letter, a Geographic Intelligence Memorandum on Svalbard produced in March 1957 in response to a request from the Air Force, and two maps of Spitsbergen (Svalbard).

2. Consideration of [REDACTED] proposal to conduct detailed survey work and mapping and his offer to do the job himself has led to an examination of DD/I interest and need for information on this island group. If the United States Government is sufficiently interested in Svalbard as a strategic outpost, then it appears that [REDACTED] proposed work would be necessary. However, we in ORR can only indicate our specific interest and requirement for more knowledge of Russian activities on Svalbard, with a view toward reporting as carefully and completely as possible the significance of these activities to US interests. In addition, we need specific information concerning physical conditions, and economic and cultural development and activities in order to report effectively on these matters for operational use now and in the event of war. Therefore to indicate the needs of the DD/I more precisely, we would be compelled to suggest that [REDACTED] proposal be modified to the end that it would satisfy our interests. It is conceivable that additional information not

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not available to the DD/I could be procured from the DD/P which would provide more background for the examination of [REDACTED] proposal.

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3. The three CIA employees referred to in [REDACTED] letter are all high in their praise of his abilities, both professionally and personally and consider him to be a competent geologist. Further, he has the attributes of considerable initiative, ability to get along with all varieties of people, to work as a member of a team - but yet to retain a degree of individuality and the prerogative of thinking for himself. He is a leader and attracts people to him.

25X1A9a

[REDACTED]
Acting Assistant Director
Research and Reports